

Because of its location in our vegetable patch, the soil around the nest remained damp throughout summer and autumn. In early May 1969 the nest was inspected daily. On May 17, exactly six months after the eggs were laid, the nest was examined. One young tortoise had hatched but had not emerged from the soil. In two eggs the shell had split down its length revealing the back of the young tortoises. The latter after bursting out were larger to an astonishing degree than the eggs they had vacated.

The unhatched eggs were lightly covered with soil, and the site was inspected daily till June 7, when a search of the nest only revealed fragments of egg-shells. The last of the young had evidently hatched and left the nest without noticeably disturbing the surface soil.

—BEVERLEY RUSS, Bridgetown

Bird Life at Nangeenan—On August 29, 1968, I revisited Nangeenan for the first time since leaving there in 1937.

The salmon gum forest on the townsite, which for five years had been my 'hunting ground,' had changed very little in the course of thirty-one years.

I arrived at 0640 hrs. and spent two hours in the forest, the weather being cold, still and fine—good bird-observing conditions.

Galaha (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) were the most conspicuous birds present, though during my residence at Nangeenan they had been occasional stragglers, seen only from August 1934 onward.

Two Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) were an addition to my previous list.

Dusky Miners (*Myzantha obscura*) which had been present in the vicinity of the school for part of my term of residence were now fairly widely distributed through the forest. The school was removed some years ago.

Feral Rock Doves (*Columba livia*) frequented the south-east corner of the forest, occupying hollows in the larger trees just as they had done in the past.

The only other species noted were: Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*), Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*), Magpie-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), Weebill (*Smicromnis brevirostris*), Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus substratus*), Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), Pied Butcher-bird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*), Western Magpie (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*).

This seems a rather poor total. Unfortunately I have no figures of relative abundance for comparison, but I have an impression of a decline in the numbers of certain small birds, notably Chestnut-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza uropygialis*), Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*A. chrysorrhoa*), Broad-tailed Thornbill (*A. apicalis*), Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenivii*) and Tree Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans*). At this season, too, I would have expected to encounter at least one of the more nomadic honeyeaters, e.g. the Brown Honeyeater (*Lichmera indistincta*) which was present at Totadgin a few miles to the south.

The environs of the forest are little changed, apart from the impoverishment of roadside vegetation.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Harvey.